

**NOVEMBER 2024**

Worship Service—Sunday 10 a.m. Sunday School—Sunday 9 a.m.
Sunday Bible Study— 11:30a.m. Adult Bible Study—Thursday 10 a.m.
8867 Kent Street, Portland, MI 48875 Office Phone: 517-647-4473
Email: portlandstandrew@gmail.com Website: www.portlandstandrew.com
Rev. Roger Straub, Vacancy Pastor **Mark Haworth, Vicar**
Pastor's Phone: 517-230-3872

Home of Wee Grow Christian Preschool

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Members and Friends of St. Andrew,

As Jesus was teaching his disciples that “it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God,” and they asked, “then who can be saved?” ... Jesus answered, “With man it is impossible, but not with God. For all things are possible with God.” When the angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and told her that she would bear the Son of God, and she asked, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?” ... Gabriel answered, “nothing will be impossible with God.”

So often, life seems so “impossible.” So unbearable. There’s so much that we would like to be better, different. Many are anxious about the upcoming election, sick and tired of the negative campaigning. We long for the ongoing wars to be over and the human suffering ended. We are distressed over the disaster, destruction, devastation, and death caused by one hurricane after another. Many have loved ones suffering with ongoing, heartbreaking, life threatening illnesses.

We should never shy away from praying. Jesus commands us to pray. He taught, in his Sermon on the Mount: “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.” Jesus makes these promises in the context of what God has done for us, in Jesus, to affirm and assure our salvation. What is impossible for us, what we cannot do for ourselves, God has accomplished for us in Jesus; in his suffering, death, and resurrection. And, it is in this assurance that we live our lives, day by day, in faith, prayerfully, and in the face of all that is so seemingly impossible, unbearable and beyond our control.

On October 27, we observe and celebrate Reformation. We are saved, by grace, through faith in Jesus. On November 3, we observe All Saints Day. We are God’s people, “saints,” by God’s grace and God’s grace alone, in Christ. The remaining Sundays in November focus on the end times and the last things, on all that God, the Lord of history, is moving toward. All of this is the hope God gives and the hope in which we live. All of this, along with all of the other blessings God showers upon us, day by day, are reason to live each day in thanksgiving.

Among the blessings for which we give thanks, we rejoice with Vicar Mark who has completed his first quarter class (first of six) in the SMP Process toward becoming St. Andrew’s pastor. Vicar Mark has also been engaged regularly in our worship services over the past several weeks and will continue to be involved in the weeks ahead, as well as in other “pastoral” acts as time and opportunity permit. We thank God for and with Vicar Mark.

On Wednesday evening, November 27, at 6:30pm, St. Andrew is offering a Thanksgiving Eve Service of Hymns, Prayer, and Praise. It is offered as a timely and meaningful opportunity to come together in thanksgiving to God as we begin the Thanksgiving holiday and weekend this year.

In Christ,

Pastor Straub,
Vacancy Pastor

NOVEMBER SCHEDULES

Acolyte

- 3 Bella Roof
- 10 Zach Roof
- 17 William Roof
- 24 Bella Roof
- 27 William Roof (Thanksgiving 6:30)



Fellowship

- 3 Jack & Mary Sandborn
- 10 Jeff & Elena Brooks
- 17 The Roof Family
- 24 Judy Nobis

Greeters

- 3 Dave & Marty Frick
- 10 Jack & Mary Sandborn
- 17 Tracy Wineland
- 24 The Roof Family

Worship Readers

- 3 Elena Brooks
- 10 Jeanne Bauer
- 17 Joe Latusek
- 24 Chris Roof
- 27 Jeff Brooks (Thanksgiving 6:30)

Music

- Judy Nobis



Altar Guild

- Ruth Helmrieck & Laura Roof

Elders

- Jeff Brooks & Chris Roof

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Sunday morning (11:30 a.m.) & Thursday morning (10 a.m.) Bible Study groups are continuing their study of Luther's Small Catechism. Reflecting on the Holy Spirit's work in the early church is insightful for a congregation like St. Andrew in transition. Come out and join in!



FOOD DONATIONS FOR NOVEMBER

November 17th is our regular 3rd Sunday Food collection day and will benefit the Portland Area Food Banks.



NOISY OFFERINGS

On Sunday, November 10th, the Noisy Offering will go to the Portland Area Food Pantry. Save your change (and bills) and bring them to church and drop them in the buckets to help us "Make a Joyful Noise to the Lord."



VICAR'S THOUGHTS

Grace, Peace and Mercy from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

What is the Church? Not only was it a quiz question, but it was also one of several subjects that frequently was asked of us during our weeklong intensive class and Zoom meetings. Simple. It is not Pastor Staub, me as vicar, pews, or altar of St. Andrew nor the Sacraments. It is the congregation. As our well-seasoned instructor led the fourteen of us through The Book of the Concord, he artfully sewed this corner stone to all the other Lutheran foundations and Holy Scriptures.

Why was this so important? Simple. Jesus Christ was sent to you and me from the Father's pure and undeserved love we call Grace. As Pastors in training, our instructor impressed upon us we will soon be the Shepherds seeking, saving, and guiding Christ's "sheep." This will be done through forgiving our daily sins, preaching His Word, and administering the sacraments.

Like the other thirteen vicars in my class, I do not take this lightly. Quite the opposite, it is sobering yet exhilarating. As Pastor Straub and my classes at Concordia Seminary Fort Wayne prepare me for ordination, I am so humbly thankful for Everyone's support! It has come in many forms, some quite unexpected, but all the pure love of Jesus. Thus, please accept my vast gratitude, each and every one of you. It has made me feel like a seven-year-old child. For as Dr. Martin Luther wrote in The Smalcald Articles part III section 12, "God be praised, a seven-year-old child know what the church is: holy believers and 'the little sheep who hear the voice of the Shepard.'"

Humbly Christ's Servant, Vicar Mark

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 4 Cameron Roof
- 13 Hunter Eldridge
- 16 Marion Koeppen
- 23 Elizabeth Eldridge



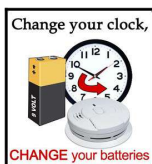
NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 3 Tom & Judy Fryover
- 14 Andrew & Mary-Kate
Mossner



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS 2 a.m. SUNDAY, NOV. 3rd

Remember to change your clocks back one hour before you go to sleep on Saturday, November 3rd or when you get up Sunday morning!



STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Called to Imitate God's Generosity

God's nature is to give. Giving reflects the heart of God. Unfortunately, our flesh, the world, and Satan prevent us from imitating God's generous nature. In our sinful state, we are selfish, self-centered people who are inclined to keep our money for ourselves rather than to give it.

Through the working of the Holy Spirit, God fills our hearts with a spirit of generosity. We stop seeing the money we have as just for our needs and entertainment. By grace, we understand that the money God entrusts to us has the potential to be used to support mission starts and missionaries so they can share the life-saving Gospel in this land and overseas. Our money has the potential to help those who are hungry and homeless. It has the potential to support our Christian schools and agencies. It supports the mission and ministry of our church. God uses and multiplies the money we give in many wonderful ways.

Through God-given faith and new attitudes, we see that our generosity is made possible by and rooted in His generosity. We are empowered to give because of God's generosity to us. Knowing that He does not limit His gifts to us and experiencing His generosity at work in our lives, we respond to His appeal to give generously. God's people live with an abundant perspective, trusting in His provisions. In Scripture, we see over and over again how God's people demonstrated their trust in His abundance. Abel, Noah, Abraham, Jacob, David, the Poor Widow, Zacchaeus, and Barnabas demonstrated their faith and trust. In 2 Corinthians chapters 8 and 9, the Apostle Paul instructs the Corinthians to take up a collection for the Christian Jews suffering from famine in Jerusalem. Paul urges them to give generously because their generosity is rooted in God's ability to provide everything, they need to be generous on all occasions. *"And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work"* (2 Corinthians 9:8). As our bounteous God richly bestowed on the Corinthians the capacity for generosity, He still does the same for us. In Jesus it is always more and never less. Even when things are tough, we will be given the opportunity to share, because God's sufficiency will provide.

When we give generously from loving and cheerful hearts, we bring joy to our Heavenly Father because we display His image and likeness. Filled with God's sufficiency, rather than our own, we become generous givers. Giving expresses our need for God, our trust in Him, and our gratitude to Him.

LWML - WOMEN IN MISSION

The October Rally/Gathering held at Our Savior Lutheran on Sat. October 19th was well attended by the Capital Zone ladies. Under the theme, "Give Thanks," we had an opening worship service joining in word and song, based on Psalm 136:1-3. Pastor Wangelin led us in Bible Study, titled "Giving thanks to God for blessing of body and soul." In-gathering items were collected for the Our Savior Lutheran Food Bank. We enjoyed hearing "tidbits" of good ideas from the District Convention. The Heart to Heart sisters, from Living Word Church - Lansing, shared their joys of attending the convention and being a part of the Capital Zone LWML.

Our Mission Grant summary is National Grant #4 - Fortifying Faith in Those with Vision Impairment - Lutheran Braille Workers - \$100,000.

Lutheran Braille Workers (LBW) has the opportunity to reach individuals with visual impairment who live in spiritual darkness with the hope and salvation of Jesus Christ. There are millions of people around the world who are blind or visually impaired. They often find it difficult to access Scripture-based reading materials. This grant will provide LBW the opportunity to produce and add to their library 50-100 Scripture topical materials in Braille and specialized large print to help meet the spiritual and emotional needs of people who are visually impaired.

Quilting update - We sent 10 finished quilts to Lutheran World Relief in October and will be sending 10 quilts to Orphan Grain Train Services in November. We will begin quilting again on Wednesday, November 20th at the home of Judy Nobis. Thank you for your support of material and sheets for this project!

*Give thanks to the Lord, call on his name;
make known among the nations what he has done. Psalm 105:1*

ALTAR GUILD—NEW MEMBERS NEEDED

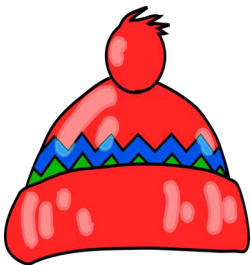
We are seeking new members to serve on Altar Guild. Altar Guild members prepare for and set up for communion each Sunday and for special services. We also maintain the oil candles on the altar and the candelabra. Members are paired together to serve for a month, typically each member serving for two services that month (unless the month includes Lent or Advent, where there are more dates). The time commitment is minimal, and we provide free training! If you are considering serving on Altar Guild or if you have any questions about Altar Guild, please talk with Tracy Wineland.

Current Members:

We are working on creating the schedule for Altar Guild for 2025. If you have specific months that you prefer to serve or if there are months when you are not available to serve, please contact Tracy Wineland before November 17th.

PCFA COAT DRIVE AND GIVEAWAY

The Giveaway was a great success! The school bus was stuffed and the PCFA was able to help 203 people get coats plus other winter outer wear on Saturday, Oct 19th! All remaining winter gear went to the many other local charities that were in great need.



Thank you to all who came out and volunteered their time and efforts with the set-up and giveaway. A special thank you to our St. Andrew crew: Vicar Mark, Dave Frick, Judy Nobis, Shannon Walsh and her family who joined her: Mike Barry, Mona Barry, Tyler Barry, and Katie Barry.



LADIES GROUP

The next meeting for The Ladies Group will be on November 17th at 9 a.m. in the Conference Room. We will work to finalize our plans to support the upcoming Advent Meals, and other ways that we can support St. Andrew. All ladies are welcome to join us as we plan activities, events and more!

BOOK TALK

Please visit the Book Talk website at <https://standrewbooktalk.weebly.com/> to find information on our next book along with the meeting date and location.



SECRET SOUL SISTER

If you are part of the Secret Sous Sister group, please continue praying for your SSS and showering her with notes and gifts on special occasions.

FROM THE TREASURER

Church Finances –September 2024

For the month, expense exceeded income by \$1,782.33, year-to-date income has exceeded expenses by \$35,347.57. The September checkbook balance is \$2,578.33. The discretionary fund balance is \$111,458.41. The Temple Scholarship fund balance is \$22,641.69.



ST. ANDREW LUTHERAN CHURCH

THANKSGIVING EVE

Hymnal Service

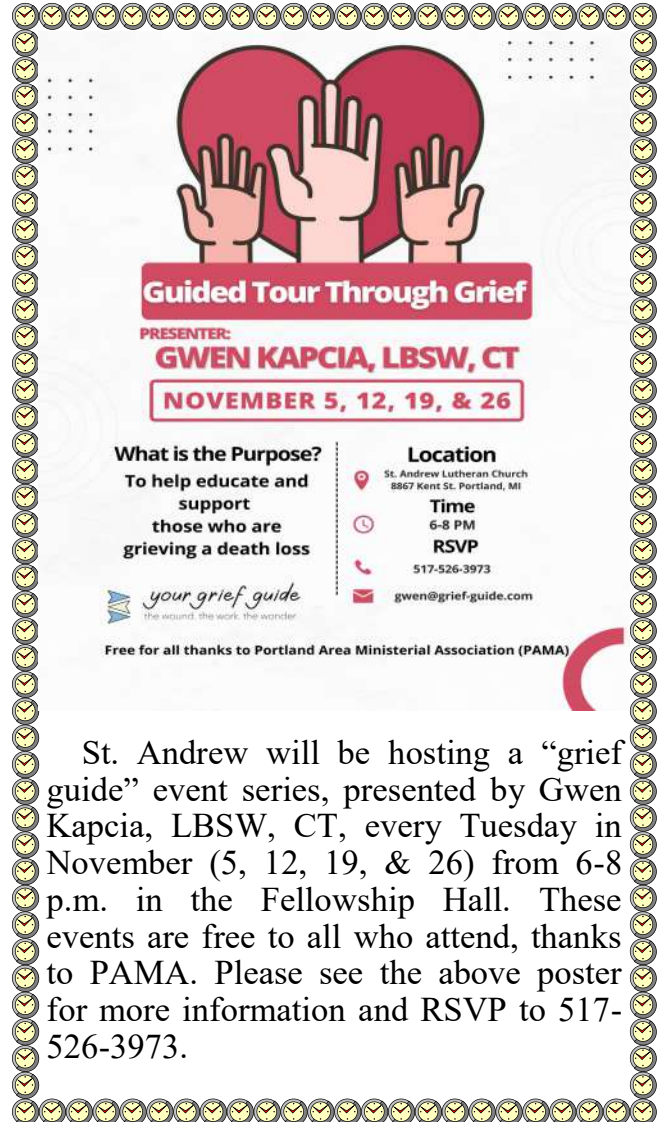
Wednesday, November 27, 2024
6:30 p.m.

A service of giving thanks,
including hymns and songs of faith

Roger Straub, Vacancy Pastor
Mark Haworth, Vicar

St. Andrew Lutheran Church
8867 Kent St., Portland, MI

Phone: 517.647.4773
Email: portlandstandrew@gmail.com
Website: www.portlandstandrew.com
Facebook: Portland St. Andrew



Guided Tour Through Grief

PRESENTER:
GWEN KAPCIA, LBSW, CT


NOVEMBER 5, 12, 19, & 26

What is the Purpose?
To help educate and support those who are grieving a death loss

Location
St. Andrew Lutheran Church
8867 Kent St. Portland, MI

Time
6-8 PM

RSVP
517-526-3973
gwen@grief-guide.com

 your grief guide
the record. the work. the wonder.

Free for all thanks to Portland Area Ministerial Association (PAMA)

St. Andrew will be hosting a “grief guide” event series, presented by Gwen Kapcia, LBSW, CT, every Tuesday in November (5, 12, 19, & 26) from 6-8 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. These events are free to all who attend, thanks to PAMA. Please see the above poster for more information and RSVP to 517-526-3973.



WEEGROW CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL

Sandy Peabody, Preschool Director

Phone: 517-526-4147



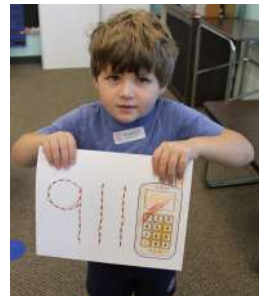
In October we were busy exploring fall themes and fire safety. The 4-year-olds investigated apples, painted leaves with oil, learned about pumpkins, and made scarecrows. We have been working on the numbers 1-5 and the letters A and P. The children found out if pumpkins sink or float, planted pumpkin seeds, and learned when we should call 911. The 3-year-old class learned about being a good friend and painted a picture with marbles together. The children also glued pieces of fabric on paper to make a classroom quilt. The 3's celebrated fall by painting colorful fall trees, learning about the parts of an apple, and making fall windsocks. They also voted for their favorite apple after a taste test and made apple puppets.

The 4's went on a field trip to Fenner Nature Center where they learned how to make apple butter. The children started out learning parts of an apple and walked to the apple orchard where we had a chance to observe nature. After we left the orchard, we peeled apples to put in a big copper pot and stirred them with a long stick. The children learned the ingredients for apple butter and had a taste test. After we had a snack we went on a hike, created tree rubbings, and used magnifying glasses to explore the woods.


At our fall parties we made crafts, played games, and enjoyed special treats. They painted pumpkins, made chocolate covered pretzels, and won prizes after playing bingo.

In November we will be looking forward to Thanksgiving activities, bible stories and we will be getting ready for our Christmas program.

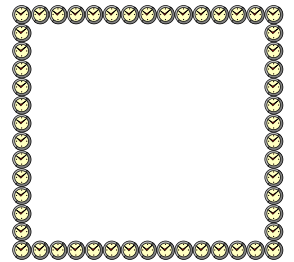
Staff of Wee Grow



NOVEMBER EVENTS CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am - Sunday School 10am - Worship Service 11:15am - Fellowship & 11:30am - Bible Study 	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am - Adult Bible Study @ 6pm - Trunk or Treat 	<p>1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Altar Guild: Ruth & Laura Elders: Jeff B & Chris R 	<p>2</p>
<p>3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am - Sunday School 10am - Worship Service 11:15am - Fellowship & 11:30am - Bible Study 	<p>4</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm - Grief Workshop 	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am - Adult Bible Study @ 	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>
<p>10</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am - Sunday School 10am - Noisy Offering - 10am - Worship Service 11:15am - Fellowship & 11:30am - Bible Study 	<p>11</p> 	<p>12</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm - Grief Workshop 	<p>13</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm - Council Meeting 	<p>14</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am - Adult Bible Study @ 	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>17</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food Collection Day Newsletter Deadline 9am - Ladies Group 9am - Sunday School 10am - Worship Service 11:15am - Fellowship & 11:30am - Bible Study 3pm - Circuit Meeting 	<p>18</p>	<p>19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm - Grief Workshop 	<p>20</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm - Preschool Board 	<p>21</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am - Adult Bible Study @ 	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am - Sunday School 10am - Worship Service 11:15am - Fellowship & 11:30am - Bible Study 	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm - Grief Workshop 	<p>27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6:30pm - Thanksgiving 	<p>28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thanksgiving 	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>

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Portland, MI 48875



Thank You, LORD!